

Questions to Ask Your Child's New Teacher at the Beginning of the School Year



Keeping in touch with your child's teacher is one of the best ways to stay informed and support your child's learning at home. The beginning of the school year is a great time to lay the groundwork for the year ahead.

Schedules, Routines, and Policies

- What **daily and weekly schedule** will my child be following at school (for example, when do they go to specials, when will they have writing, what time is lunch and dismissal)?
- What information can I find out about **school and class schedules**, routines, and policies *on my own* (school or class events, important dates, policies)? And where I can I find it (website, handbook)?
- What information about **school and class schedules**, routines, and policies should I expect to come home during the year? How far in advance? How often?

Learning and Culture in the Classroom

- How should I expect us to **communicate** about what the students are learning in school (website, newsletters)? How often should I expect communication?
- What is important for me to know about your **teaching philosophy** and **style**?
- What should I know about how you **manage the classroom** (student expectations and behavior, incentives or behavior systems)?
- How can I support you in **building a positive classroom culture** for learning? What language, procedures, and responsibilities could I be encouraging at home?
- What else can I do at home to support the learning happening at school (discuss projects, keep certain routines, encourage class responsibilities)?

Communication and Support

- How should I expect us to communicate about the **progress and challenges that my child** may be experiencing (email, phone, and conference)?
- What are the **best way** and the **best time** to contact you about something that is going on with my child that I'd like you to know about (email, phone call, and meeting)?
- How can I support my child with their **homework**? What strategies should I use at home?
- How else can I support my child in their **development as a reader and writer**?
- How can I support you this year in other ways (volunteering opportunities, special projects I can help with at home?)